

REPORT MCKAY
HYLAN'S CHOICE
TO HEAD POLICE

U. S. Ordnance Major in
Washington Said to Be
Slated for Job.

HELD POST 3 YEARS AGO

Tammany and War Department Agreeable to Appointment, Say Wiscarees.

Information reached THE SUN last night that Major Douglas I. McKay, who was Police Commissioner under Mayor Mitchell during the first five months of his administration, and before that a Deputy Commissioner, is the first choice of Mayor-elect Hyman for the head of the Police Department.

It is understood that a representative of Judge Hyman has broached the subject to Mayor McKay and that he is willing to accept provided the War Department will consent. It was strongly intimated last night that the War Department looks with favor on the proposed appointment and will place no obstacles in the Mayor's way.

While Tammany is adhering strictly to its policy of leaving this most important place entirely to the discretion of the new Mayor, Major McKay's selection would be favorably received by the democratic leaders. During his brief occupancy of the Commissioner's office, approval for his methods in handling the affairs of the department.

Honor Man at West Point.

Major McKay was born in New York thirty-five years ago. He entered West Point in 1901 from the twenty-second Congressional district. He was graduated four years later at the top of his class. In 1907 he resigned from the army to become the head of New York's aqueduct police, remaining there until 1911, when Commissioner Waldo appointed him a Deputy Police Commissioner. On January 1, 1914, the day Mayor Mitchell assumed office, he made Major McKay Commissioner, a post he held for five months, and then left for an accord after making many popular reforms in the department.

The only other contender for Police Commissioner so far as is known is Charles E. Gehring, formerly head of the Independence League. Mr. Gehring's indorsements for this place, numbering several hundred, including that of William R. Hearst, were presented to Judge Hyman yesterday by City Court Judge James A. Allen. Judge Hyman and Judge Allen were closeted together for a considerable time.

Judge Hyman last night declined to discuss the probable head of the department, but did discuss police matters, placing himself squarely on record against the present merit system of the department.

Seeks Good Will of People.

"In my administration," said the Judge, "so far as the Police Commissioner is concerned, I want to have the good will of the people as well as of the members of the police force, and I do not think such good will can be obtained by maintaining the system of merit now in vogue.

He said this in answer to a policeman's request for every case of mismanagement before the Court of Special Sessions and four credits for every case in which an individual policeman is returned. The tendency under such a plan, he said, is to make a felony charge when the offense could be properly handled by a suspension from the system our courts have been plagued with many unnecessary cases, throwing an extra burden on the taxpayers and adding to the expense of the city.

Telephone Rates Excessive.

Another matter which the Judge intimated yesterday he intended to pay much attention to after he assumes office is the telephone rates in Greater New York. Through his representative, George M. Sheehan of Brooklyn, he stated yesterday that he believed the present telephone rates are excessive and should be reduced. Mr. Sheehan appeared before the up-State Public Service Commission in the Hall of Records yesterday, that body having jurisdiction over all telephone companies, and requested the commission to hold public hearings on this matter after January 1, as Judge Hyman could present his views. The commission took no action, but will take them up at its next meeting, December 13.

U. S. STAND PLEASES SWISS.

Neutrality Pledge Kills Unrest German Agents Aroused.

Kerensky in a Letter
Calls Radicals "Fools."

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6.—The social revolutionary newspaper *Dionoroda* (The People's Work) published a letter from Kerensky, the former Premier, in which the following passages occur:

"Do you not see that your frankness is being made use of and that you are being deceived? You were promised peace with the Germans within three days. Where is it? Where is the liberty which was promised you? It is dishonorable, infamous. Fools! It is Kerensky, who told you this. For eight months I safeguarded the liberty of the people and the future happiness of the masses of workers. Now they realize that when I was in power liberty was—and democracy really existed."

DIAZ MENACES
CARRANZA RULE

Leads Pro-Ally Revolutionary Movement Against First Chief.

NEW CRISIS IN MEXICO

No Sign Wilson Will Change Attitude, Despite Germans' Ascendancy There.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Advises received in Latin American diplomatic circles indicate that the situation in Mexico is drifting toward another crisis.

The veil of secrecy which has surrounded the latest developments has been lifted to show that First Chief Carranza is apparently losing his grip despite efforts of German agitators to strengthen him, and that a strong pro-ally revolutionary movement is gaining momentum under the leadership of Felix Diaz.

Latest reports received here purport to give the present location of Felix Diaz in Mexico. They present estimates of the forces he can control and refer to offers of financial backing, with arrangements to assist him in every way when the time is ripe. At least one of the South American Governments regards this move as likely to have a decisive effect on the Mexican situation in the near future.

Diaz Embarrasses Esteate Cause.

Felix Diaz appears to have embraced the cause of the United States and the Esteate as a matter of expediency in his campaign to undermine Carranza's control. He has reached here, but so far as the British because of the perpetual threat against the British oil supplies at Tampico which come from German inspired sources in Mexico, and he is said to count on the ultimate support of President Wilson.

There is no justification whatever at this time for assuming that President Wilson will countenance any support for a movement directed at the constituted Government of Mexico under First Chief Carranza. Reports that Carranza is financially dominating Carranza's action are an indication of the fact that Carranza is virtually dominating Carranza's action. Carranza is not pro-German in the sense of backing the German cause or wishing to help Germany in any way, but he is pro-ally in the sense that he is not adverse to permitting Germans and pro-Germans to rally around his standard of neutrality.

One report is that Carranza thinks he is using the Germans for his own purposes, but the consensus here is that the Germans really are using him to further their propaganda schemes and to make trouble wherever they can.

Handing Rules Along Border.

The first thought of Mexican revolutionaries always has been "How can we gain support from the United States?" Formerly it was financial support and rifles, but now it is political or moral support. The revolutionaries are led by the assumption that a revolutionary leader could capitalize pro-ally sentiment in the United States. Apparently Felix Diaz is following this plan.

RAILROADS ASK
BILLION A YEAR
AS FEDERAL AID

Committee of Executives
Tells Newlands That Sum
Is Imperative.

WILSON WILL FIX PLAN

Confers With Commerce Board and McAdoo—Special Message Likely.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Decision as to the way in which the railways shall be operated during the war now rests with President Wilson. The word that will be accepted by Congress, and whatever plan the President gives his approval to will be enacted speedily into law.

Realizing that the matter is now up to him, the President lost no time to-day in proceeding to grapple with the problem. This was done in an open and direct manner, with the President himself presiding over the conference with the three members of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The Commissioners who conferred with him were Chairman H. H. McAdoo, Commissioner Meyer, who has been investigating car shortage, and Commissioner Clark, who attended the conference of railroad executives, at which the railroad pooling plan was drawn up.

Keeping an Open Mind.

No statement was made after this conference, but it was intimated that the President was keeping an open mind and merely proceeding, as he usually does, to inform himself thoroughly before making up his mind.

Members of the Railroad War Board, consisting of Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway, Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and a third, who is the New Haven, conferred to-day with the President.

The railroad men told Chairman Newlands that a billion dollars would be needed for financing them in the ensuing year if Government aid were to be extended. This amount would be required to make such improvements as the railroads regarded as urgently necessary to handle the 1918 traffic.

The railroads for some time have contended that a billion dollars a year for ten years should be expended on them if the transportation plants were to be kept in the best of repair.

Senator Newlands, however, is regarded as favoring extension of large credits to the railways by the Government, but he is not sure that a billion dollars per annum, to-day he was not specific on this point, however.

The President so far as known has not yet made up his mind as to whether he will extend the aid to the railroads. He is expected to have a conference with the railroad heads on Monday and will then have a conference with the President.

Hasn't Asked Railroads' Views.

While a general outline was given of the railroads' needs, no definite decision was reached at the conference with Senator Newlands. It being admitted by all hands, including Senator Newlands, that nothing could be done toward such legislation to meet the problem until the President had spoken.

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HALIFAX EXPLOSION KILLS 2,000;
CRASH BLOWS UP MUNITION SHIP;
2 SQUARE MILES OF CITY WRECKED

CONGRESS ACTS
ON WAR TO-DAY

Vote Certain in Both Houses
Unless Unexpected Debate
Is Precipitated.

AUSTRIA ALONE IS NAMED

Administration Said to Oppose Including Bulgaria and Turkey at This Time.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Unless totally unexpected opposition develops in the Senate at the last minute, Congress will have declared war on Austria before adjournment to-morrow. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously adopted to-day a war resolution, and the House gave unanimous consent for the consideration of the war declaration resolution immediately after the routine business is out of the way to-morrow.

The resolution as reported by the Senate committee differs slightly from the resolution unanimously adopted yesterday by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The House resolution states in the preamble the cause for the war. This the Senate resolution omits.

The House resolution would make the war declaration effective from noon of yesterday. The Senate resolution is framed so that the state of war would exist from the moment of adoption of the resolution by Congress.

Only One Resolution Likely.

Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said to-day that in spite of these technical differences it was probable that only one resolution would be adopted by both houses of Congress. Senator Stone is not opposed to the form of the House resolution nor to the declaration of war to-morrow.

The House resolution was adopted first. If the Senate resolution was adopted first, it probably would be substituted on the floor before it was voted on.

Many Want Broad Legislation.

There is a sentiment among the more thoughtful Senators that if price fixing is to be attempted at all it should be along the broadest possible lines.

South Sure to Fight to Keep Present High Cotton Quotations.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The President is confronted with the problem of defining his views and likewise his wishes as to Government price fixing for the period of the war before legislation can be attempted on this all important subject.

Senatorial opinion, while at variance as to the desirability of the enactment of a general price fixing measure, is united in the judgment that until some definition of the generalization is forthcoming no step can be taken without complete understanding that such a step is at the direction and command of the President.

WILSON'S PRICE
POLICY SOUGHT

No Legislation Until He Declares Wishes, Say Congressional Leaders.

BROAD LAWS PLANNED

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BYNG MAINTAINS
GRIP UPON LINE

Retirement Made Deliberately
to Positions Chosen in
Advance.

MOST OF THE GAIN HELD

Berlin Claims Three Mile Advance Over Front of Seven Miles.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Reports persist that the Germans are still rushing heavy reinforcements into the Cambrai sector and apparently have not given up hope of recovering the ground won by Gen. Byng in his famous drive last week.

There was sharp fighting yesterday evening and last night about La Vacquerie, on the south side of the salient, in which the British advanced their line slightly.

The withdrawal of the British from the untenable part of the salient on the north side, near Bourlon Wood, which was effected quietly on Tuesday night, was discovered yesterday by the Germans, who announce to-day the capture of Graincourt, Anneux, Cantalain, Noyelles and the wood and heights north of Marconing.

Claims Made by Berlin.

Berlin asserts that the German line has been advanced to a depth of almost three miles over a front of almost seven miles and that the number of prisoners taken by them has increased to more than 5,000 and of guns to 148.

"We have fallen back deliberately and to have retreated to the heights north and east of Flessures. The new British line, however, at its nearest point is still only three and one-half miles from Cambrai.

The Heuter correspondent at British headquarters in France sends the following:

"Gen. Byng has realized Napoleon's definition of a General's greatest quality—'to know when to retreat and do it.' 'We have fallen back deliberately and successfully upon a well chosen line, which rules out the salient made by Bourlon Wood, and enables us to maintain our hold upon the captured length of the Hindenburg line against any pressure.'

The territory we abandoned is probably less than one-third of the total gained in Gen. Byng's great tank drive. The work of destroying everything valuable to the enemy was very thoroughly done."

The British statement on the retirement follows:

On the night of Tuesday our troops held the salient formed by our positions in the neighborhood of Noyelles-Sur-Escarot and Bourlon Wood were withdrawn a short distance to a position southward of the captured length of the Hindenburg line against any pressure."

Prior to the withdrawal the enemy's field works in the abandoned area were systematically destroyed.

Thousands More Injured, Shipping Is
Destroyed and Millions of Dollars
Property Damage Done in
British Naval Base

DARTMOUTH, N. S., ALMOST GONE;
FIRE SWEEPS DEVASTATED AREA

Relief Being Sent to Stricken City From All
Parts of Canada and From United States
---Utter Darkness Prevails

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

HALIFAX, Dec. 6.—Confused whistle signals exchanged between the French munition ship *Mont Blanc* and the Norwegian steamship *Imo*, resulted this morning in a collision that caused an explosion which killed more than 2,000 persons, injured thousands and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property.

Five thousand tons of high explosives on board the Frenchman blew up with terrific force. Two square miles of the town of Halifax and the suburb of Richmond were shaken and devastated and a fire that followed completed the havoc that had already been begun. Ships in the harbor, among them the Canadian cruiser *Niobe*, were damaged. Two of the crew of the *Niobe* were killed and many more injured.

The French steamship was coming into port and was headed for Pier 8, one of the new piers constructed along the northern end of the water front. The Norwegian ship was outward bound. The *Mont Blanc* signalled that she was going to starboard. The Norwegian did not get the signal correctly and rammed the munition ship.

There came at first a minor explosion and fire on board the Frenchman. Her crew took to the boats and escaped. Seventeen minutes after the first shock the entire 5,000 tons of high explosives in her hold exploded. There is no shipping record of the Norwegian vessel by which she can be accurately identified.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 6.—The estimate of the dead, which grew from 800 to 1,000 and then to 2,000, was made by Chief of Police Hanrahan after twenty-five wagons loaded with bodies had reached one morgue. All during the afternoon and night these wagons of the dead continued their journeys.

It was not possible, in the demoralization and in the dark, to get accurate statements as to either the total number of killed or injured. By the uncertain light of lanterns rescue parties are hourly bringing new bodies from the ruins and are finding new cases of injury.

Bodies of sailors are being taken from the water. Relief parties are working in wrecked buildings and darkened streets, and above all of the destruction and damage by explosion the menace of fire came to sweep the afflicted area and to put the finishing touches upon the work of destruction.

Relief Is on Way.

From the North street railway station to Africville, to the northwest, the line of devastation threads its blackened path. Richmond, at the extreme northern point of the jutting peninsula that marks the position of Halifax on the map, has suffered most. From all sides the people of Canada and of the United States, spurred on by the War Departments of both countries, are rushing to the relief of the stricken people.

Nova Scotia stands out at the eastern end of Canada like a huge part of geographical brass knuckles offering an offensive and defensive front to the world. At the centre of the knuckles sits Halifax, a city of 50,000 famed as a shipping point and protected by a landlocked bay. It was here that the British stopped all overseas trade bound for the United States before it was allowed to proceed. Here it was inspected and searched for such things as might make there the story of her being for the time. The pilot of the *Mont Blanc* was starting at a point somewhat to the north and east of Sackville street, the pier began and ran their numbered way north, leading straight back to the west to conform to the coast line. Pier 8 lay well to the north of the town's centre of gravity.

How Disaster Occurred.

It was into Pier 8 at a clock this morning that the *Mont Blanc* made her way, laden to the limit with high explosives that had been prepared for the campaign on the western front. The ship came to an Atlantic pier in the United States November 9. There she loaded, and as is usual in such cases there the story of her being for the time. The pilot of the *Mont Blanc* was starting at a point somewhat to the north and east of Sackville street, the pier began and ran their numbered way north, leading straight back to the west to conform to the coast line. Pier 8 lay well to the north of the town's centre of gravity.

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The buildings which were not destroyed by the force of the terrific explosion were destroyed by the fire which followed. Scores of persons were injured by the collapse of the timber station, arena, military gymnasium, sugar refinery and elevator. Armed guards of soldiers and sailors are patrolling the city. Not a street car is moving and port of Halifax is in a complete standstill. All hospitals and many private houses are filled with the injured. Temporary hospitals and morgues have been opened in school houses in the western section of the city.

The damage along the waterfront cannot yet be estimated. Many of the men comprising the crews of the ships in the harbor were killed and injured. On one steamship, the *Ptarmigan*, it is reported that thirty-two of the crew or forty-two were killed. Bodies of many seamen have been picked up in the harbor. Rescue parties working among

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